

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A stencil printing ink container for supplying ink to an ink pump through an ink suction nozzle of said ink pump comprising:
  - an ink container body,
  - an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body, and
  - an inner plug ~~which is provided with~~ comprising (i) an ink discharge port having an outer diameter which is smaller in the outer diameter than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and (ii) a means for giving an said ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port, and is
  - said inner plug being mounted on the ink charge port;
  - wherein said means for giving said ink suction nozzle access to the ink discharge port includes a portion of said plug extending inside said ink suction nozzle.
2. (Currently Amended) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 1 in which the means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port is comprises a cylindrical portion which is provided with includes said ink discharge port on its front end and wherein said means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port is engaged with and disengaged from the suction nozzle by pushing toward and pulling away from the suction nozzle.

3. (Currently Amended) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 2 in which the inner plug ~~is further provided with~~ comprises a means for keeping liquid-tightness to the ink charge port, and a draw-resistant means which is resistive to draw of the inner plug from the ink charge port and provides strength of engagement between the inner plug and the ink charge port withstanding pulling force acting when the ink discharge port is pulled away from the suction nozzle to be disengaged therefrom.

4. (Currently Amended) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 3 in which the ink container body ~~is provided with~~ includes a guide cylinder which projects outward from the end wall around the ink charge port and the means for keeping liquid-tightness to the ink charge port ~~is~~ comprises an elastic annular member which is provided on the peripheral surface of the inner plug integrally therewith to be press-fitted on the inner peripheral of said guide cylinder surface in a liquid-tight fashion.

5. (Original) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 4 in which the draw-resistant means of the inner plug comprises an elastic hook engaged with the peripheral edge of the ink charge port.

6. (Original) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 3 in which the draw-resistant means of the inner plug comprises an elastic hook engaged with the peripheral edge of the ink charge port.

7. (Currently Amended) A stencil printing ink cartridge comprising:

~~a stencil printing ink container having an ink container body,~~  
an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body,  
an inner plug ~~which is provided with~~ comprising (i) an ink discharge port having an outer diameter which is smaller in the outer diameter than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and  
(ii) a means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port and  
~~is mounted on the ink charge port,~~ and  
an ink filled in the ink container body;  
wherein said means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port includes a portion for fitting inside said ink suction nozzle.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge comprising the steps of

filling stencil printing ink in a stencil printing ink container having an ink container body and an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body through the ink charge port, and

after filling said ink container body with said stencil printing ink, mounting an inner plug, which is ~~provided with~~ comprises an ink discharge port smaller in the outer diameter than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and a means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port, ~~on the inside of the ink charge port, filled with ink.~~

9 – 20 (Presently Cancelled).

21. (New) A stencil printing ink container as defined in Claim 4 in which said guide cylinder includes an inner peripheral surface which flares outward at an outer end of said guide cylinder.

22. (New) A stencil printing ink container for supplying ink to an ink pump through an ink suction nozzle comprising:

an ink container body,

an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body, and

an inner plug comprising an ink discharge port smaller in the outer diameter than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and said inner plug further comprising a portion extending inside said ink suction nozzle,

said inner plug being mounted on the ink charge port.

23. (New) A stencil printing ink container for supplying ink to an ink pump through an ink suction nozzle of said ink pump comprising:

an ink container body,

an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body, and

an inner plug comprising (i) an ink discharge port having an outer diameter which is smaller than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and (ii) a means for giving said ink suction nozzle access to the ink discharge port;

wherein said inner plug is removably mounted on the ink charge port so that said inner plug is removed from said ink charge port when stencil printing ink is charged to said ink container body, and is inserted into said ink charge port when the ink is supplied to said ink pump through said inner plug and said ink suction nozzle.

24. (New) A stencil printing ink cartridge comprising:
- an ink container body,
  - an ink charge port provided in an end wall of the ink container body,
  - an inner plug comprising (i) an ink discharge port having an outer diameter which is smaller than the inner diameter of the ink charge port and (ii) a means for giving an ink suction nozzle of an ink pump access to the ink discharge port, and
  - an ink filled in the ink container body;
- wherein said inner plug is removably mounted on the ink charge port so that said inner plug is removed from said ink charge port when said ink is charged to said ink container body, and is inserted into said ink charge port when said ink is supplied to said ink pump through said inner plug and said ink suction nozzle.